

Clearly there is much for which we should be thankful. Equally so, we have much upon which to reflect: not only the challenges that still lie ahead but also the qualities of mind and soul that have brought us through the trials of the past and have kept us a great people.

National holidays have traditionally provided us with opportunities for such reflection and celebration. Flag Day, celebrated June 14th, is one such day; Independence Day is another.

Between the two is a 21-day interval. This year—a year when all of us pray that we may be entering a new era of peace and goodwill among men—it seems particularly fitting that we mark this 21-day period in a very special way.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the period beginning June 14, 1973 and extending through July 4, 1973 as a 21-day salute to our country. “HONOR AMERICA” shall be the theme for this salute. I call on all Americans to join during this period in appropriate public observances and personal activities which will express their love for this country, their respect for its past and their dedication to its future.

This should not be a time in which we ignore our country’s problems. But it should be a time in which we gain renewed appreciation for those physical and spiritual resources which can enable us to meet those problems—and to make our great Nation greater still.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-seventh.



PROCLAMATION 4223

Commemorating the Opening of the Upper Mississippi River

June 14, 1973

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Three hundred years ago two French explorers led a small band of men in search of a river the Indians called the Mississippi. It was their

hope that the river would lead to the Pacific Ocean and give access to the riches of the Orient.

Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet never reached the Pacific, but their mission was an immense success, for the river they found has brought America wealth beyond measure.

The waters of the Mississippi are the most wide-ranging navigation system in the land; they provide recreational opportunities for millions of Americans; they have been the source of all history and culture that enriches the lives of us all; they nurture our farms and our cities; and they bind our people and the shores of our land from sea to sea.

To commemorate the opening of the upper Mississippi River by Marquette and Jolliet, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 533, has asked that June 17, 1973 be designated as a day of commemoration of this event.

Ante, p. 74.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate June 17, 1973, as a day of commemoration of the opening of the upper Mississippi River by Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet in 1673, and I call upon the people of the United States to join together in acknowledging and appreciating one of our Nation's greatest natural resources and one of the most significant wellsprings of our cultural heritage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-seventh.



PROCLAMATION 4224

Father's Day, 1973

By the President of the United States of America

June 15, 1973

A Proclamation

Each year, the third Sunday in June is set aside to honor the American father. In a complex and sometimes coldly impersonal age, Father's Day brings us back to basics.

A basic unit of our society is the family which a father helps to form and hold together. A basic force in our economic life is the work a father does to provide for his wife and children. One of the strongest leadership